O 281356Z MAY 08 FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8274 INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MOSCOW 001502

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/26/2018
TAGS: <u>PARM PREL MASS ETTC RS SY</u>

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE DELIVERY TO

SYRIA DELIVERED

REF: STATE 55234

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Alice G. Wells For Reasons  $1.4\ (b)$  and (d).

(S) On May 27 we delivered reftel demarche to MFA DVBR Third Secretary Alexey Chumichev who said the GOR does not sell MANPADS (versus vehicle-mounted systems) to Syria. He argued that the GOR adheres to all international agreements to which it is a party. He added that, if Russia were to sell MANPADS to Syria, the GOR would inform us. In a separate meeting on May 28, MFA Middle East Deputy Director Oleg Ozerov undertook to clarify whether a sale was pending.

RUSSELL